



Bulova Byline
Chairman's Monthly Report
July 2009

- Just before sitting down to draft this edition of the Byline, I gave remarks at an Asian Real Estate Association Foreclosure Prevention Seminar at NVCC. I was saddened to see so many people caught in the spiral of the Foreclosure crises but was able to deliver some positive news about a decline in properties still owned by lending institutions (1,144 – down from the County's peak of 2,257 in September 2008.) I also said that *we are not out of the woods*.

The problem in Northern Virginia parallels other areas of the country that were “hot” during the housing boom. Prices are beginning to stabilize somewhat as rising home sales are starting to draw down the inventory of lender-owned homes. Another wave of foreclosures, however, is expected to impact this country once the moratorium on foreclosures is lifted, and in response to the increase in job losses and the inability for many homeowners to continue to pay their mortgages.

See inside for more information about the **Foreclosure Crises**, along with resources available to people struggling to stay in their homes.

- By the time you read this Byline, our Board will have completed a **two day Retreat** at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon. This is the Board's first retreat in five years and we will spend this time focusing on priorities and big picture issues that affect our community. It is critical that, despite the severe economic turmoil taking place in this nation, Fairfax County continues to identify and adopt effective and smarter ways to maintain and enrich the quality of life that defines us. By **engaging** our residents and businesses in the process of addressing these challenging times, **protecting our investment** in our most critical priorities, and by maintaining strong **responsible fiscal management**, we must ensure:

- ✓ a quality educational system,
- ✓ safe streets and neighborhoods,
- ✓ a clean, sustainable environment,
- ✓ recreational & cultural opportunities,
- ✓ livable, caring and affordable communities, with

- ✓ a vibrant economy, and
- ✓ efficient transportation network.


I will be sure to share more information about the retreat in an e-Bulletin within the next week or two.

- Work continues on **Megaprojects** under construction in our County. See inside for the latest on the HOT Lanes project (which was halted in June when stormwater protection was breached), on Rail to Dulles and the Transformation of Tysons.

- And lastly, Fairfax County is poised to enter into a **Sister Jurisdiction** Partnership with Songpa-gu, a District located on the south-eastern part of Seoul, Korea. Songpa-gu has a population of 620,000 citizens and is described as a “very beautiful city surrounded with a castle on the mountain and four rivers”. In 1988 Songpa-gu hosted the World Olympic Games. A delegation will be visiting us, including Mayor Kim Young Soon, from July 9th through July 14th and I’m looking forward to hosting them and showing off our great County!

Enjoy the summer and take time to enjoy the beautiful things Fairfax County has to offer!

Sincerely,



Sharon Bulova
Chairman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERING

Fairfax County is such a great place to live, work and raise our families because of the exceptional people who live here. Our county is full of involved problem-solvers who are invested in the community and interested in helping their neighbors. If you are looking for ways to contribute to the community, whether you are interested in working at an animal shelter or at a library, there are many opportunities to volunteer in Fairfax County. Specific information about volunteering is available on the county's website here: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/community/>.

FIGHT THE BITE

With all the fun and sun summer brings us here in Fairfax County, it's easy to forget about mosquitoes and other insects that can harm our community. Besides being a nuisance, mosquitoes and ticks can carry harmful diseases such as West Nile Virus, and Lyme's Disease. There are ways to prevent these diseases through repellants, and detection techniques. Using the information below, these pesky insects don't have to ruin a great and healthy summer!

- "Protecting yourself from Disease Carrying Insects" is an excellent overview to mosquitoes and ticks, and how they effect Fairfax County.
- "Choosing the Right Repellent" can clear up the questions you may have about what's effective in an easy to read format, to give you confidence in your health.
- These and other documents are available to address any questions you have about specific insects, the diseases they may carry, and how this affects Fairfax County:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westnile/wnvamp.htm>

SOBRIETY CHECKPOINTS

This past month our police have worked diligently to keep YOU safe on the roads. Using the highly visible strategy of sobriety checkpoints, they are not only enforcing the law but they are also working towards raising awareness about drunk driving and its perils - hopefully preventing future episodes. I am proud of the commitment that the Fairfax County Police Department continues to show in their efforts to combat drunk driving and underage drinking. Targeting safety during the graduation season effectively sets a tone for summer.



COMPLETE COUNTIES COMMITTEE

In April of 2010, the United States Census Bureau will conduct a national census. Every ten years, the Census Bureau mails a private, confidential questionnaire out to all households in the country. Information gathered through the census determines the allocation of funding for state and federal funding, and influences how the boundaries for congressional, state and magisterial districts are drawn. An exact, complete count will help insure that Fairfax County and its residents receive a fair share of important federal and state funds such as Social Services Block Grants and state support for K-12 education.

The Board of Supervisors is forming a Complete County Committee to insure that all segments of the population are counted correctly. Appointees to this committee will act as "Census Champions" and will utilize contacts within communities that are traditionally difficult to count. By spreading the word early and dispelling common misconceptions about the census through this community-based approach, we hope to provide precise information to the Census Bureau.

COOL COUNTIES

In 2007, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors signed the Cool Counties Declaration, a nationwide initiative of local governments responding to the challenge of climate change. Fairfax County is proud to be one of the counties responsible for founding this initiative and is working to meet the greenhouse gas emissions goals set out in the Cool Counties pledge.



At our June 1 Board Meeting, the Board of Supervisors unanimously supported my request for an update on our progress toward identifying all emissions created by county government, a report on the impact of the emissions reductions we have made since 2007 and recommendations on policies to continue the reduction of our emissions. I expect this report to be given at the Board's Environmental Committee meeting in September and will be sure to provide a summary in a later issue of the *Byline*. More information on Cool Counties and other environmental programs can be found on the county's website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/>

FAIRFAX COUNTY AND THE FORECLOSURE CRISIS



Fairfax County was honored to host Governor Tim Kaine's Housing Forum on June 8th. This forum brought together elected representatives, private sector stakeholders and non-profit advocates to discuss the foreclosure crisis and other housing issues as well as hear concerns from the community.

I represented local government in the forum's round-table discussion and many Fairfax County residents are still being affected by the foreclosure crisis. The good news is that the total number of foreclosures is trending downward in the county. 1144 homes in Fairfax County were in foreclosure in May. That is approximately 1000 fewer foreclosed homes than there were in September and approximately 750 fewer than the average

number of foreclosures experienced throughout the county last year.

However, since Fannie May and Freddie Mac's moratoriums on foreclosures have ended and the interest rates on adjustable-rate mortgages will continue to fluctuate, it is important for county residents to be aware of the resources that are available to them if their home are in jeopardy of being foreclosed. It is very important that homeowners who might be foreclosed on act quickly to work with their loan holder and housing counselors to address the situation.

Help is Available:

A complete list of the foreclosure resources available from the county can be found here: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/foreclosures/>. Our Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-certified counselors are available weekdays from 1 to 4 PM at 703-246-5087 to help residents access state, local, federal and legal resources to avoid foreclosure.

Many renters are also being displaced from foreclosed properties and can contact the Fairfax County Department of Consumer Protection at 703-222-8435 for counseling and information. If you are having difficulty with your household budget and need assistance with fundamental needs such as food or shelter, please contact Fairfax County's Coordinated Services Planning at 703-222-0880 for comprehensive help.

FAIRFAX COUNTY RECEIVES 8 NACo ACHEIVEMENT AWARDS

Fairfax County received eight National Association of Counties (NACo) 2009 Achievement Awards recognizing innovative county programs. Three of the awards are for Best in Category, the most received by any county nationwide.

Courtroom Technology Management System (CTMS) — Best in Category

Department of Information Technology and Courts

A fully integrated state-of-the-art centralized courtroom audio and video management system allows the courts can meet the increasing demands of an evolving global and technology-enhanced, digitized society. The CTMS is being phased in and ultimately will support, centrally and remotely, 43 courtrooms and ancillary facilities for all three Fairfax courts.

Silver Lining Initiative — Best in Category

Department of Housing and Community Development

The three-pronged initiative responds to the dramatic rise in foreclosed homes and their potential damaging effect on neighborhoods. The initiative encompasses: counseling for those at risk for foreclosure; addressing the increasing number of vacant properties; and stabilizing neighborhoods hit hardest by foreclosures or abandoned homes.

Tree Conservation Ordinance — Best in Category

Urban Forest Management Division, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

The Tree Conservation Ordinance is the first ordinance in Virginia to focus on tree preservation. The ordinance ensures that prescribed levels of tree canopy are provided on development sites within a 10-year time frame, helping to sustain existing environmental functionality and enhancing the county's ability to conserve and manage its vital air, water, soil and ecological resources.

Community Connections

Park Authority

Community Connections is designed for equal representation and inclusion of minority populations as customers, park users and park supporters in an increasingly diverse community.

It is part philosophy, part policy, part listening post and part marketing strategy.

EXCELS: Excellence Coalition for Education, Literacy and Library Services Public Library and Public Schools

This project supports the educational and social needs of the Fort Belvoir military community. Designed to encourage literacy, increase library facilities use and improve student achievement, it also boosts student participation in academic, social and cultural activities through expanded after-school programming, homework help, reading clubs, field trips and early literacy programs.

Herrity Parking Garage Green Roof Department of Public Works and Environmental Services and Facilities Management Department

Constructed on the upper level of the five-story Herrity Building parking garage, the vegetated roof is an innovative stormwater retrofit project that reduces stormwater and polluted runoff into the Chesapeake Bay.

Integrated Parcel Lifecycle System (IPLS) Department of Systems Management for Human Services

The Integrated Parcel Lifecycle System (IPLS) facilitates and expands the capabilities of all Fairfax County departments to access, integrate and analyze demographic and land use information to make data-driven service delivery and planning decisions.

Road DAWG (Don't Associate with Gangs) Camps

Office of the County Executive

The camps, part of the county's gang prevention initiative, deter gang recruitment of middle-school youth by providing tools to strengthen their resilience, develop positive decision-making skills and encourage leadership characteristics to buffer against the potential lure of gangs.

BEYOND THE DISRUPTION...ECONOMIC SILVER LINING OF HOT LANES PROJECT



The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce recently hosted Dr. Stephen S. Fuller from the George Mason University – Center for Regional Analysis (GMUCRA), who announced that the construction of the I-495/Capital Beltway High Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes will support 11,800 jobs and is expected to generate \$2.7 billion in economic benefit for the Washington Metropolitan Area over the 2008-2013 period.

For Fairfax County, the construction of the Capital Beltway HOT Lanes project is expected to generate a total of \$2.33 billion and support 5,650 jobs over the six-year construction period (on average 950 new jobs per year). The approximate 5,650 jobs over the total construction period may account for as much as 10 percent of all new jobs and 20 percent of the total economic growth in 2009.

Between 2008 and 2013, HOT Lane construction will pour \$1.54 billion of direct construction funding into the regional economy. For each dollar in direct spending on construction materials and workers, the Virginia economy will realize a total benefit of \$2.25 as it is re-spent in local stores and restaurants.

The project is building 14 miles of two new HOT Lanes in each direction from the Springfield Interchange to just north of the Dulles Toll Road. The project is also providing upgrades to 11 key interchanges and replacing aging infrastructure, which includes more than 50 bridges and overpasses. Construction is expected to be completed in early 2013.

LAKE BARTON – GOOD NEWS!

The Lake Barton Dam was built in 1978 and has helped relieve downstream flood damages for the past 31 years. The dam was built by the National Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) in cooperation with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (referred to as sponsors). The dam was built to protect downstream residents and infrastructure from flooding.

In order to upgrade the structure to meet current design and safety criteria, NRCS, in cooperation with Fairfax County and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, has developed a draft plan for the rehabilitation of the Lake Barton Dam. The plan includes the following rehabilitation items:

- Install a reinforced concrete cutoff wall at the upstream end of the level section of the auxiliary spillway.
- Install a concrete secant wall at the end of the outlet section of the auxiliary spillway.
- Raise the permanent pool level by 0.8 feet to achieve the required sediment storage capacity.
- Raise the crest of the auxiliary spillway by 0.5 feet to meet the criteria for a vegetative auxiliary spillway.
- Extend the existing training dike approximately 40 feet to protect the dam embankment and contain spillway flow.
- Regrade about 50 feet of the top of the dam adjacent to the auxiliary spillway to raise it to the design elevation.

The rehabilitated structure will have a new life expectancy of 50 years from the date construction is projected to be completed – May 2011.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$2,555,000. The NRCS will pay 65% of the cost with the remaining cost being provided by Fairfax County. The NRCS received the federal funding for this project as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Specific inquiries about this rehabilitation plan can be referred to Christina Fullmer in my office at Christina.Fullmer@fairfaxcounty.gov.

STORMWATER PROTECTION & THE CAPITAL BELTWAY HOT LANES PROJECT

On Monday, June 22, three of the four Capital Beltway HOT Lanes construction sections were ***shut down due to environmental and erosion and sediment control concerns*** shared by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Fairfax County.

VDOT has subsequently reported that while the project has an extensive stormwater management program in place, with ongoing monitoring by VDOT and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), some areas within the project corridor were overtaxed by the significant rainfall received in recent weeks. This overtaxation and the subsequent stormwater management failures prompted the need for reassessment and enhancements to the project's stormwater management practices and controls, causing the temporary suspension of work in some areas of the corridor.

I'm happy to report that as part of the action plan moving forward, several enhanced stormwater management tools have been identified and will be implemented as needed in certain areas of the project corridor to ensure better protection during future rain events. These enhancements include:

- Reinforced silt fences, referred to as “super-silt” fences to retain sediment
- Deeper sediment traps to collect sediment and keep water clean
- Additional rock check dams to reduce water velocity and hence reduce erosion
- Additional slope drains to prevent slope erosion
- Reseeding and/or mulching exposed soil surfaces
- Installation of additional riprap, or loose stone, along the edge of streams to stabilize embankments
- Additional temporary diversion dikes to divert water to sediment control facilities

As a result of these improvements having been made, the project's work suspension has now been lifted. These enhanced stormwater protection measures will complement existing measures that are in place to protect the project corridor. Existing stormwater controls include:

- Nearly 20 miles of silt fences and sediment traps to keep water clean
- Storm sewer inlet and outlet protection for swales, ditches, and stream channels
- Pumping operations into “silt bags” to remove sediment from discharge
- Numerous rock construction entrances
- Rock check dams at natural and manmade ditches
- Stabilizing cleared and excavated areas by seeding
- Use of soil stabilization blankets to promote seeding establishment
- Riprap to stabilize embankments
- Routine inspections, and stepped up inspections after every significant rain event

To ensure the effectiveness of these controls, I understand that the project will be conducting more frequent and comprehensive environmental monitoring, including daily monitoring by the project team and bi-weekly quality assurance monitoring by an independent environmental monitoring and inspection team. ***These are crucial measures for the protection of Accotink Creek and its tributaries.***

Please additionally note that due to the Independence Day holiday, VDOT will suspect all lane closures related to the Capital Beltway HOT Lanes project from noon Thursday, July 2 to noon Monday, July 6.



Senators Chap Petersen, Patsy Ticer, Delegates Ken Plum, David Bulova, and Fairfax Chairman Sharon Bulova join students and Capital One associates at the groundbreaking

Capital One & Junior Achievement Break Ground on Financial Literacy Facility in Fairfax County

On June 11, 2009, legislators, students, community leaders and friends gathered to break ground on the future site of a 20,000-square-foot financial literacy center that will bring important life skills to more than 14,000 local middle school students from Fairfax County, Virginia and the Greater Washington area each year.

Junior Achievement Finance Park is scheduled to open in early 2010 on the campus of Frost Middle School. The financial literacy center is the result of a collaboration among Junior Achievement, Fairfax County Public Schools and a \$2.5MM grant from Capital One Financial Corporation, the nation's 8th largest bank and the largest bank headquartered in Virginia.

The facility will house an experiential learning center designed to bring to life financial literacy education. Inside the center will be a mock miniature city, where students will learn valuable financial lessons such as budgeting and saving by experiencing first-hand what it is like to create a budget, purchase a car and a home, save for college education, and pay taxes. This experience will build upon an intensive, six-week classroom financial education curriculum students receive before visiting Finance Park.



Frost Middle School students look at the building's architectural rendering



Delegate Dave Bulova (D-Fairfax) addresses the crowd